

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-16 and 19-33 are pending in this application, with claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, 29 and 32 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 29 and 32 are amended. Claims 1, 17, 18 and 34 are canceled.

In the Office Action dated July 7, 2004, the figures are objected to. Claims 8-11 and 25-28 are objected to due to antecedent basis issues. Claims 1, 17, 18 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Muzio et al., U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0155359. Claims 2-16 and 19-33 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Objections to the claims

Claims 8 and 25 have been amended to address the antecedent basis issues. Applicant requests that the objections to claims 8-11 and 25-28 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The allowable claims have been rewritten in independent form. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are therefore moot.

Objections to the figures

FIG. 1 is resubmitted with the legend "PRIOR ART" added, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant requests that the objection to the figures be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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